

14,494-foot Mount Whitney. "He had all the qualities that go into making a great teacher and guide," one of his supervisors said. "His clients liked him because of his teaching skills and his wonderful companionship."

On January 11, Kent Swanson, Jr. died in a helicopter crash in British Columbia. Typically, Kent was en route to an avalanche rescue class. This young man died as he lived—a hero.

He leaves behind his parents, Kent Sr. and Tricia Swanson; his maternal grandfather, Robert A. Bishton; and host of aunts, uncles, and cousins. He also leaves behind a lot of people who might not be alive today without his heroic efforts. My sympathy goes out to the Swanson family during this sad time. As they mourn his death, I hope they will take pride in his life.

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR H. BILGER

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Arthur H. Bilger for his great contributions to the nonprofit House of Justice of Bet Tzedek Legal Services of Los Angeles.

Bet Tzedek Legal Services is one of the leading poverty law centers in the country. Thousands of indigent, elderly, and disabled individuals benefit each year from the free legal services provided at Bet Tzedek's headquarters in the Fairfax District of Los Angeles, the Valley Rights project in North Hollywood, and the 32 senior centers throughout the Los Angeles area. Bet Tzedek is open to all who pass through its doors and even makes house calls to the ill and frail. Its services are vital and they are not otherwise readily available to those who need them.

Arthur H. Bilger has been a constant believer in Bet Tzedek's mission to be a place of refuge and assistance to Los Angeles' most needy residents. As one of the most dedicated and successful fundraisers for Bet Tzedek, his efforts have allowed this generous organization to continue to operate at full capacity while maintaining its promise of services at no cost to its clientele. We owe Arthur H. Bilger a debt of gratitude for his vision, his devotion, and his support of this most worthy cause.

I am delighted to bring Mr. Bilger's tireless and selfless work on behalf of Bet Tzedek Legal Services to the attention of my colleagues and ask you to join me saluting him for his many important contributions.

VISCLOSKY HONORS RESIDENTS OF NORTHWEST INDIANA ON MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. today, and we reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicacy of liberty.

Dr. King's life, and unfortunately his vicious murder, remind us that we must continually work and, if necessary, fight, to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in that battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in many of the citizens in communities throughout our Nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, I would like to recognize several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District, who, in the past year and in their own ways have, have acted with courage, met challenges, and used their abilities to reach goals and enhance their communities.

Mr. Jack Parton, director of the United Steelworkers of America, District 7, Mr. Eric Mason and Mr. Michael Krueger, both graduates of Portage High School, led a prodiversity rally in Portage, IN, last May to peacefully, but forcefully, counter a march by the Ku Klux Klan. Their efforts sent a strong and clear message to members of the KKK, as well as members of our communities and citizens throughout the country, that ethnic, racial, and religious hatred will not be tolerated. The counter-rally that they developed and carried out was an overwhelming success. It generated enormous support from religious, labor, business, and civic groups throughout the region. The courage of these men should be held up as an example to all that, through thoughtful, united action, the values of human rights that we all cherish can—and must—be maintained, even in the face of ignorance and hatred.

I would also like to recognize Janee Bryant, Brandon Crayton, Brandie Frith, LaKisha Girder, Damara Hamlin, Markika Harris, Rasheedah Jackson, Leah Johnson, Jacleen Joiner, Ayashia Muhammad, Clinton Pearson, Kala Simmons, Sheria Smith, David Suggs, DeKeyur Summer, Jennifer Thompson, Stephanie Thompson, Courtney Williams, and Joey Willis.

These outstanding individuals are the members of the Tolleston Junior High School team, which won the Indiana State Bowl Championship in spelling. This wonderful accomplishment is a reflection of their hard work and dedication to study. Their scholastic effort and rigorous approach to learning have made them the best in the State. They have brought pride to themselves, their families, their school, and their communities. Their success is also a credit to the outstanding ability and leadership of their teacher-coaches, Mrs. Margaret Hymes, Mrs. Paula Thompson, Mrs. Sandra V. Alfred, Ms. Dionne Moore, Mrs. Janice L. Williams, and Mrs. Juanita Vincent. The Tolleston students, who won the State Bowl Championship in spelling, as well as their gifted teachers, deserve recognition as true role models in our State.

Though very different in nature, the achievement of all of these individuals reflects many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed and the values he espoused. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and rose to the occasion. They had goals and worked to achieve them. Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other colleagues to join me in commending their initiative, resolve, and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO THE VOLUNTEERS OF TABERNACLE TOWNSHIP

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the residents of Tabernacle Township, NJ at the time of their second annual Tabernacle Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

It would be difficult to name, in the context of this extension of remarks, all those worthwhile organizations whose members are being honored. That one community supports such a myriad of organizations, which run the gamut from religious, civic, athletic, public safety, educational, community support, and political groups, is testament to its citizens.

On February 2, 1997, special recognition will be given to the Tabernacle Township PTA, Inc. at the time of its 75th anniversary. This association of parents and educators has been active in local schools since 1921. Through its provision of books, school equipment, scholarships, family activities, after-school child care, and summer recreation programs, this organization has proven its worth for three-quarters of a century—quite an achievement.

I extend my congratulations to the PTA's members, past and present, as well as to the many selfless volunteers who will be honored for their commitment to their community.

They deserve our praise and thanks.

HOMELESS IN THE HEART

HON. WALTER H. CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to my colleagues' attention an essay written by a constituent of mine that illustrates the best of the human spirit. Torin Rea, his mother, and his younger brother found themselves homeless and living in a shelter in my hometown of Santa Barbara when he was in his teens. But instead of giving up, he and his family worked hard to make a better life for themselves.

Torin's eloquent and moving essay details his struggle of dealing with the horrible toll homelessness can take on a family. But more importantly, he describes how, faced with adversity, a family can pull together and overcome even the toughest times, becoming even closer in the process.

When the word homeless is mentioned, one quickly pictures a poor soul huddled in a box, eating the few scraps of food they can find. Or a person too mentally imbalanced to lead a productive life in society, wandering down the street babbling in words only he or she can understand. In Jo Goodwin Parker's short story, "What is Poverty?", Parker tells her graphic and incisive experience with homelessness. She accounts the times when she had nothing to eat for herself, only her children. The hard nights on the street with the cold biting at her side, with no ability to warm herself, she curls up with her children in a cardboard box. The painful feeling of not being able to feed her children runs deep into the heart. This mother had no means of supporting herself or her children, but she valiantly continues to mother them in the best